

C. Remarks

The claims are 21-23 and 28-34, with claims 21, 28 and 31 being independent. Claims 21 and 31 have been amended to address section 112, second paragraph, issues. New claims 31-34 have been added. Support for claim 31 may be found throughout the specification, the drawings and the claims. Support for claims 32-34 may be found, inter alia, in original claim 26. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

Claims 21-23 and 28-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. In view of the above amendment to claims 21 and 28 Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 21, 22, 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from, U.S. Patent No. 6,068,896 (Manabe). Claims 21-23 and 28-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,248,412 B1 (Kawashima) in view of Manabe. The grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the merits of rejection, Applicants would like to briefly review some of the key features and advantages of the presently claimed invention. The present invention, in pertinent part, is directed to a multilayered structure resin molded product comprising a core layer and a skin layer formed by injection molding using a pulverized or recycled resin material. The board-shaped portion of the resin molded

product has a projecting portion for mounting another part, which projecting portion is formed integrally with the skin layer and only from the same material as the skin layer.

Since the projecting portion is not formed from the recycled material but is formed entirely from the virgin material, the projecting portion has superior elasticity or rigidity, which is utilized to better connect the molded product to other components. Since the thickness or the height of the projecting portion is specifically controlled, the detrimental effects caused by the recycled material of the core are minimized, thereby improving the stability and the strength of the projecting portion (page 22, lines 6-14).

Manabe is directed to colored molded articles. While Manabe teaches an article consisting of a skin layer and a core layer in what it calls a “sandwich” structure and an article having a boss integrally molded with a main body, Applicants respectfully submit that Manabe fails to disclose or suggest the presently claimed product. Specifically, Manabe fails to disclose or suggest a sandwich-type structure, which has a boss that is integrally formed with the skin layer only from the same material as the skin layer.

Applicants note that the articles having a sandwich-type structure and the articles with a boss in Manabe are mutually exclusive. In particular, the sandwich-type structure does not have a boss (Example 4, Figs. 8 and 9) and the article with a boss does not have a skin layer (Example 3, Figs. 5, 6, 7A). Applicants submit that they did not find one iota of disclosure or suggestion for forming a boss in a sandwich-type structure such that the skin layer and the boss are integrally molded only from the same virgin material. The Examiner’s allegation of obviousness premised on selection of different portions of

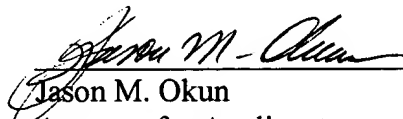
Manabe is mere hindsight based on Applicants' disclosure. Accordingly, Manabe cannot affect the patentability of the presently claimed invention.

The deficiencies of Manabe cannot be cured by Kawashima. Kawashima is directed to a luster resin molding. This reference teaches forming a boss on a back surface of a main body of an article. However, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Kawashima does not disclose or suggest that this article has a skin layer and a core layer. Thus, clearly, Kawashima cannot disclose or suggest a projection portion integrally molded with the skin layer made only from the same virgin material. In fact, Kawashima does not disclose or suggest more than Example 4 in Manabe. Therefore, even if the teachings of Kawashima and Manabe are combined, the resulting combination does not yield the presently claimed molded product.

Wherefore, Applicants respectfully request that all rejections be withdrawn and that the present case be passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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